

Route 561 Dump Site

United States Avenue Burn Site

Gibbsboro, Camden County, NJ

A Citizen's Guide to the Public Health Assessment

June 2000

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) has developed a Public Health Assessment on the Route 561 Dump site and the United States Avenue Burn site. The purpose of the Public Health Assessment is to learn if people were or are exposed to contamination from the sites at levels that can be harmful to their health. A Public Comment Draft is published so that citizens may provide additional concerns or comments before the Health Assessment is finalized. This Citizen's Guide is a summary of the June 19, 2000 Public Health Assessment. If you would like to read the complete document please contact one of the agencies listed on the back of this Citizen's Guide.

***Where is the
Route 561 Dump site
located, and what is
its present
condition?***

The Route 561 Dump site is located approximately 100 yards from the intersection of Gibbsboro-Milford Road. The 2.9 acre site is reported to have been used, in the past, as an area to dump paint wastes and paint sludges. The closest residence is less than 200 feet from the site, which is bordered by a small strip mall. A lake is located approximately 200 feet northeast of the site. The site is largely wooded and slopes toward a small stream. The lower portion, about one-third of the site, is swampy wetlands with very dense undergrowth. Next to the wetlands is Clement Lake, which is used for boating and swimming.

The entire site is surrounded by a new chain link fence. There is also a security system on site, including cameras and a sensor on the front gate. Several of the most contaminated surface soil "hot spots" within the Route 561 site have been stabilized as an interim measure. Some of the contaminated surface soil areas were covered with membrane, clean soil and then seeded.

***Where is the United States
Avenue Burn site located, and
what is its present condition?***

The United States Avenue Burn site is a four acre site near Bridgewood Lake, about a third of a mile south of the center of Gibbsboro. Woods and wetlands border the site on three sides. There are two small creeks, White Sand Branch and Haney Run, which meet on site and flow beneath United States Avenue. The creek then empties into Bridgewood Lake. Paint waste, sludge and other materials were dumped and burned at the site. Paint thinners

continued



**Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health
Consumer and Environmental Health Services**

**PO Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
(609) 633-2043**

were used to speed up the burning. Municipal trash might also have been dumped at the site.

Arsenic, lead and cadmium from paint were found in the surface soil around the areas where paint was dumped or burned. Metals were also found in the sediment from the Haney Run and the White Sand Branch.

A large portion of the site is now surrounded by a new chain link fence. According to the USEPA, most of the site's contaminated surface soil lies inside the fenced area. Several private residences in the vicinity of the site use private wells as their source of potable water.

There are railroad tracks across the street. The USEPA removed soils to limit possible exposures from the railroad area.

***What does the NJDHSS
conclude about each site?***

Route 561 Dump site: Although contaminants exist on the site at a level of public health concern, the **site currently represents no apparent public health hazard**. This is because access to the site is restricted, and it is unlikely that people are in contact with site contaminants.

United States Avenue Burn site: The site also **currently represents no apparent public health hazard**, because people presently are not exposed to site contaminants. Also, "hot spots" near the railroad tracks have been cleaned up. However, it was a **public health hazard in the past** because children may have been exposed to lead at levels of public health concern.

The NJDHSS recommends that residents living near either site be informed about the potential hazards. It also recommends that private wells in both areas be identified and tested for site-related contamination.

***Where can people get more
information about these sites
or their contaminants?***

Camden County Health Department
Jefferson House, Lakeland Road
PO Box 9
Blackwood, NJ 08012-0009
(609) 374-6037

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Consumer and Environmental Health Services
PO Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
(609) 633-2043

All comments must be provided to the NJDHSS in writing, and postmarked by July 19, 2000.